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Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Secretary has asked me to respond to your request for Executive Branch comments on S. Con. Res. 117.

The Department of State shares your concern for the fate of Raoul Wallenberg. We have made efforts to gain independent confirmation of Wallenberg's fate, or evidence that he might still be alive, through interviews with Soviet dissidents and emigres, but these have not provided us with a clarification or support for the rumor that he might still be alive. Nonetheless, in the light of periodic reports suggesting Wallenberg did not die in 1947, we have raised the question with Soviet authorities on numerous occasions, most recently in February of this year. As you are aware, in February the Soviets once more formally told us that Wallenberg had died in July, 1947, and indicated they would have no further information for us in the future. Regrettably, in view of the tone of their reply and in view of the current strained state of relations between the United States and the Soviet Union, it is our assessment that the Soviets will not be responsive to further appeals for cooperation in resolving the uncertainties concerning Wallenberg's fate.

There is no question that the Wallenberg case should be one of concern to the signatories of the Helsinki Accords. His acts that saved the lives of thousands of Hungarian Jews during World War II showed courageous dedication to the cause of basic human rights. Certainly, the question of how to handle the Wallenberg case, as well as numerous other human rights cases of great concern to the American people and their elected representatives, will be carefully studied as we prepare for the Madrid CSCE Conference. How the Wallenberg case might best be handled has not yet been determined, but we will be particularly interested in cooperating fully with the Government of Sweden which has a primary interest due to Wallenberg's Swedish nationality.

The Honorable
Frank Church,
Chairman,
Committee on Foreign Relations,
United States Senate.

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The Office of Management and Budget advises that from the standpoint of the Administration's program there is no objection to the submission of this report.

Sincerely,

J. Brian Atwood
Assistant Secretary for
Congressional Relations

Enclosure:
Correspondence Returned.

Drafted: EUR/SOBI: ALA Goodman: rs *ALB*
10/09/80, ext. 28671 #119-2082
Cleared: EUR/SOV: RKG German *RB*
EUR/SOV: AEDarbyshire *AD*
EUR/RPM: JGallup *JB*
EUR/NE: PReams *PA*
HA/HR: HSimon *AS*
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H: TTowell
EUR: RLBarry *JB*

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